C2. BOWYER BIBLE PRINT 3543. SIMON PETER & ANDREW WITH CHRIST MORTIER

Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come", which, according to Matthew's gloss, means "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". For some reason things are not as God wants them in the world. He does not want there to be suffering, He does not want there to be death, He does not want people to behave hatefully to one another. So Jesus has come along, has demonstrated what God wants, and at the same time has said that those who are delivered from these evils are part of God's promise that He is going to make a better world. That is the "good news": the Kingdom of God is near. But in order for God's will to come to fruition in the world, human beings have got to play their part. It is not just a matter of changing the circuits of the robot, so that we will all start behaving according to the moral laws laid down by our Creator. We have our part to play: "Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News".

Having started his ministry, Jesus goes on to choose the people who are going to help him proclaim the Good News. It is assumed that the people that Jesus called were simple working people. But there is one reason why we should doubt it: all Jewish men at that time had a trade. Jesus was a carpenter, and Peter was a fisherman. But we know that Paul was a highly educated man - a university graduate and a fluent Greek-speaker. And yet he was a tent-maker. While Peter and James and John are stated to be fisherman, we do not know whether Jesus and his disciples were educated men or not. This idea that there were just simple fishermen may have been a picture encouraged by the Church in order to emphasise the miraculous transformation allegedly effected in their abilities by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.